

Testimony in support of HB 6784 for Paid Sick Days for More Workers

To Representative Tercyak, Senator Gomes, and distinguished members of the Labor Committee:

Hi my name is Zachery Eddy and I am a sales representative and a cashier at Burlington Coat Factory in Bloomfield, CT. I have been working at my job for more than two years. I usually work about 25-35hrs a week. When I'm not at work I am usually at home with my girlfriend and our 2yr old son.

I do not usually get sick but very recently I got the flu and was too ill to go to work. I was very weak and had severe fever with body aches and pains. Unfortunately, I had to take a few unpaid days off from work to take care of myself. It seems like a few days would not make an impact on my family but my girlfriend and I make a budget according to the hours we are expected to work from week to week. Because I didn't receive any income for a few days we were short on our rent for the month. My girlfriend had to plead her boss to give her more work hours in order to make up the difference.

I do not currently get paid sick days, my store employs about 35 people, and only workers that are employed full time get any paid sick leave. Until this experience, I did not really think about the impact that taking a few unpaid days off would have on my family's budget. We were really concerned that we wouldn't be able to pay our rent in time and were really struggling at the last minute to come up with the money.

Had I been covered by the current paid sick days law, I think my family would have been able to avoid this extremely stressful period and we would have been able to pay our rent in time without struggling at the last minute to keep a roof over our heads.

I think everyone deserves to have paid sick days. We are all human, we get sick every once in a while and it is just unfair that people find themselves in a difficult position over something that we cannot control.

Please expand paid sick days to more workers by supporting HB 6784.

Thank you very much.

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